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DISPLAY UNTIL JULY 2



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SPA AWARDS

The annual SPA Excellence in Software Awards were presented at the San Francisco Marriott on March 18. Remember *GEOS* for the C64? Well, Berkeley Softworks won four top awards for the IBM version of *GEOS*, called *GeoWorks Ensemble*. *GeoWorks* won for Best New Use of a Computer, Best Consumer Program, Best Personal Productivity/Creativity Program, and Critic's Choice Award for Best Consumer Program. The Best New Business Software Product award and Critic's Choice Award for Best Business Program went, predictably, to *Microsoft Windows 3.0*. (Just goes to show how starved for a graphical user interface PC users are...) The Best Simulation Program and Best Secondary Education Program awards were given to Maxis' *SimEarth*, which is currently being converted to Amiga. Other entertainment awards included: Best Action/Arcade - *Faces... Tris III* (Spectrum Holobyte); Best Fantasy/Role-Playing/Adventure Program - *King's Quest V* (Sierra); Best Sports Program - *LINKS* (Access Software); Best Strategy Program - *Sid Meier's Railroad Tycoon* (MicroProse). *Faces... Tris III* is the only one of the award winners that's even available in Amiga format.

OPTICAL NEWS

Matsushita (the parent company of Panasonic) has announced a licensing agreement with Energy Conversion Devices (EDC) to produce rewritable optical drives based on technology developed by EDC. There are a couple of differences between this and previous drives. First, the capacity is greater, with up to a gigabyte on one double-sided removable disk. One of the biggest complaints about optical drives up to now has been their slow access times, but this new one claims to be much faster. The drives use direct overwriting technology based on phase-change, making them able to handle both erasable and write-once functions.

That means you could use one cartridge for everyday stuff, and then back up permanent data in WORM format for safety. The drive will be released under the Panasonic label. More info can be had by contacting the PR agency, Bassett & Bassett, at 313-567-4150.

SWEET MUSIC

One of the more interesting catalogs to pass through the .info offices lately is one called *Ear Candy*. It's produced by the Computer Musician Coalition and offers tapes (there are a couple of CDs, but tape is the predominant format) of electronic music from as-yet-undiscovered musicians. For most of the tapes, the catalog lists the equipment used. We only spotted one that was done with an Amiga, though there were several that used a C64 (and too many that were

done with the Atari ST). We haven't heard any of the music, but the descriptions are more than intriguing and the prices are reasonable, with most in the \$5-\$10 range. Who knows? One of these electronic musicians could be the next Bach, Beethoven, or Beatles. Computer Musician Coalition, 1024 W. Wilcox Ave., Peoria, IL 61604. 309-685-4843.

AUTOMOTIVATIONAL ART

If you're a car buff (judging from the quantity of online and PD art, lots of Amiga owners are), check out the **Madrigal Automotive Construction Set**. The four-disk collection includes scaled IFF images to use as jumping-off points in paint programs, publishing, video, etc. All sorts of vehicles are represented, including antiques and classics and there are associated informational

.infoMANIA GAME TIPS

Here are some secret "side doors," "back doors," and strategies to your favorite Amiga games, for .info subscribers only!

Chaos Strikes Back: When confronting the dragon, stand inside any secret door facing out, and you can shoot fireballs or any other weapon you happen to have and the dragon can't touch you. Just be sure you're standing in the doorway.

- Royan Webb

Sim City: You can only do the FUND trick for more cash four times before an earthquake destroys your city, but if you do it before starting to build, the earthquakes can't damage what you haven't built yet.

- Nathan Webb

F/A 18 Interceptor: On booting up select free flight from the main menu (option 2). When asked to select a runway to take off from do not select any of the ones specified but go for a

nonexistent one like 6, 7, 8, or 9. Now select an aircraft. The game will zoom in to the plane WAY off to the east of the map area, and the plane will be seen sitting on the grass in the middle of nowhere. It's a long way back to the Bay area but if you point the plane at 270 degrees at 100% power (no afterburner) you will have enough fuel to get back with some to spare for flying about a bit. It probably takes a good 10 minutes or so to get back so be patient.

- Paul Cameron, Internet

Dungeon: Yes, we know this is a PD game, but since it was the prototype *Zork*, we're including it here. Typing INCANT, JOHN GEMWKQ will take you to the Endgame (the beginning of *Zork III*).

- John Sparks, Internet

Share your "secret tricks" with .info readers or write and let us know which games you'd like to see hints for! Send to:
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files with some of them. They are shown in both cross section and side view, and some are shown in other views as well. \$49.95 from *Madrigal Designs*, PO Box 2292, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.

CDTV DISKS RECEIVED

The machines may not be shipping in quantity yet, but we've received our first two software titles for CDTV. *HyperMedia Concepts* is shipping **The Fred Fish Collection on CD ROM**. It includes the first 410 Fish disks, and not just one, but two copies of each, one in standard format and the other ZIPped. The CD can be used on both CDTV and ISO 9660 CD-ROM-drive equipped Amigas. (There is, by the way, a disclaimer on the box which states that not all of the programs on the Fish disks will run properly on CDTV, though that's perfectly understandable.)

The first CDTV-specific title we've actually held in our hot little hands is *Free Spirit's Barney Bear Goes to School*. Adapted from the Amiga edu-game, it's the first of a series for kids in the 2-6 year old range. In addition to

teaching kids a little spelling and object recognition, there's also an electronic coloring book. \$39.95. Free Spirit Software, 58 Noble Street, Kutztown, PA 19530. 215-683-5609.

SCANNING...

If you've been casting an envious eye at the Hewlett-Packard *ScanJet* and wishing you could use the black and white scanner for your own ends, wish no more. A company called *Concise Logic* has released **Scannery**, a cable/software combination that will let you connect the *ScanJet* to any model Amiga. (The box even contains an adapter to let you use the thing with an A1000.) *Scannery* supports a resolution of 640 x 400, has ARexx support, and will work with both the HP ScanJet and ScanJet Plus (though the latter must be in ScanJet mode). There are controls for adjusting the scale, resolution, and brightness, and you can crop the image to any size. The scanner will handle black and white, 256 grey scales (under Workbench 2.0), and will also invert images if you need a negative. The

scanned images can be saved in IFF, EPS (Encapsulated PostScript), PCL, FAX (to use with Applied Engineering's *SendFAX*), TIF, and VEPS formats. Price is \$250. Concise Logic, 36 Tamarack Ave., Suite 315, Danbury, CT 06811. 203-746-6739.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The April issue of *Byte* contains a couple of quotes from Microsoft chairman Bill Gates on the current uproar in the IBM world over operating systems. With IBM and Microsoft all but waging war over operating systems, Gates said "We're confusing the market, that's for sure." If that isn't enough, Gates also said of Hewlett-Packard's *New Wave* operating environment, which is in direct competition with the Object Linking and Embedding technology that Microsoft is developing, "...*New Wave* doesn't do anything." Gates has never been known for his tact, let alone his humility.

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